FAMILY LIFE

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WOMEN — DOMINANT AND SUBMISSIVE

What makes women "sure of themselves," with feelings of self-esteem, power, dominance, and superiority? A. H. Maslow published a Social Personality Inventory for College Women (Stanford University Press, 1942) and Dan L. Anderson has used it in connection with study of the background of 116 women, representing equally the North Texas State College and the Texas State College for Women, both at Denton.

Women of the South tend to rate themselves somewhat lower in self-esteem than do women of the North on whom Dr. Maslow reported. Women from small families show a higher degree of dominance-feeling than do those from large families. Oldest and only children rate higher than others on the scale. Mr. Anderson (in an unpublished Master's Thesis at NTSC) compared the percentages found in the upper and lower quartile as follows:

	First Quartile	Fourth Quartile
Oldest Child	45%	10%
Only Child	7	0
Second Child	21	7
Third Child	10	10
Fourth Child	3	27
Fifth Child	3	4
Youngest Child	11	42
	100%	100%

Dominant women tend to be more lax in both church membership and church attendance than do those of low dominance; on the other hand, they are more likely to be members of clubs and to take an active part in such organizations. None of the high-dominant women in Mr. Anderson's group was from a home broken by divorce, while 17% of the low-dominance women were from such broken homes. Although the figures are too small to carry much weight, they suggest plainly that the break-up of a home may tend to deprive the children of a feeling of security and self-respect.

High dominance women reported many men friends and few women friends. Low dominance women reported many women friends and few men friends. This finding hardly supports the idea that men always prefer a "clinging vine"! Mr. Anderson speculates that the high-dominance women may encounter more conflicts with their own sex, therefore report fewer friends among them. He wonders, however, if they may be deceiving

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themselves as to the number of their male friends! Because they are more extroverted, taking part in more college activities and meeting more men, they may think they have a lot of friends of the other sex whereas the men, if asked privately, might deny that a friendship exists!

The family attachments of high and low dominance women make an interesting study. The women with high scores more often feel closely attached to their fathers but also report more conflict with them. The same high-dominance women more frequently report conflict with their mothers, but they feel less attached to their mothers. It is the woman with low self-esteem who feels most closely attached to her mother.

Interesting differences in attachment to brothers and sisters also appeared in Mr. Anderson's survey. The dominant woman tends to be attached to the younger and more submissive members of the family, especially if one of these is a boy! "He's my ideal of a baby brother," or "He's small, sweet and easy to handle," were typical comments. "The chance to control, direct, and dominate are all characteristic of women high in ego-feeling," Mr. Anderson explains.

Conversely, low-dominant women were likely to feel attached to older and stronger sibs, especially to males, although they did not show as much preference for brothers as did the women of greater self-esteem. But comments such as "He's so good to me"; "He's so strong and masterful", explained the girl's admiration of her big brother. Low-dominance women were somewhat more inclined, however, to be equally attached to every member of the family: "I love them all the same."

Background factors such as age, locale (city or country) where childhood was spent, health, and employment in college showed no relationship to dominance feelings.

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FAMILY-MINDEDNESS

Demanding that the "range and quality of the forces at work upon the adult mind" be improved, R. Weatherall in a recent lecture in London continued, "To take a simple instance,—how many of us have ever seen a cinema romance pass from engagement to settled family life with three or four children, the wife reflecting satisfaction with her lot, appreciation of domestic virtues and efficiency in running the home, the husband declining to be attracted by the anti-social ambition of an unmerited career, and contributing to a circle of intelligent living, tenderness and mutual love. Instead, average families as depicted on the screen must have a net reproduction rate of less than 0.5 and be dying out at the rate of 50% in each generation. The unconscious influence such films may have upon the mind with their accentuation of standards which are bad for stable family life as well as for the nation, needs fully to be realized."

In the U. S. Census of 1940, about 16% of all married women were found to be in the "labor force." The proportion in 1890 was not much higher than 4%.

THE GLANDS OF DESTINY

With increasing knowledge of the glands of internal secretion, it has become clear that the sex glands themselves, that is, the testicles and ovaries, are much less important than is popularly supposed,—except for the production of germ cells. The "sex life" of a human being does not depend on the hormones produced in testicle or ovary; it can continue normally even after these glands are removed.

Apart from reproduction, the "sex life" depends on the intricately interrelated action of three glands: pituitary, adrenal, and gonads (testis or ovary), with the thyroid gland as an activator of the whole mechanism. "Sex hormones" are not produced solely, or even principally, in the "sex glands." Male sex hormone is also produced by the ovary, female sex hormone by the testicle,—indeed, the stallion's testicle produces 10 times as much **female** sex hormone as does the ovary of the mare. But the cortex or outer layer of the adrenal glands produces much more sex hormone than do testis and ovary. There is no biological antagonism between male and female hormones; both are present in each sex and the body can change one into the other. Excess is neutralized by the liver. The sex hormones in general are varying forms of rather simple compounds which are even found in many plants.

This whole complicated but highly important field has been surveyed by Harold Burrows in "Biological Action of Sex Hormones" (pp. 514, price 42s. from Cambridge (England) University Press, 1945.) The book, which reviews the literature (with 2,000 citations) only up to the beginning of World War II, is for the biologist, not for the general reader, but it will be an invaluable source of material for the teacher who wants to help his pupils get rid of some of the age-old notions which still prevail, even in a good deal of medical practice.

In the behavior of human beings, the "sex hormones" may increase the intensity of the sex drive but often seem to have no influence on its direction, — thus administering male sex hormones to male homosexuals may lead them to be more aggressively homosexual than before.

Association of the sex hormones with cancer is also reviewed by Dr. Burrows. In cancer of the breast among women there seem to be two different types of causation,—an inherited factor, and a non-inherited factor which is transmitted in the mother's milk. As a protection against this latter influence, the author suggests that a woman who comes from a breast-cancerous strain should not suckle her own daughters, although she can nurse her sons without danger.

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What professions have the highest divorce rates?

Ans.—No satisfactory studies of this have appeared recently. The federal census, in a survey of divorces from 1887 to 1906, reported that the greatest frequency of divorce was among commercial travelers, actors, musicians, physicians, and stenographers.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI

"Education for Responsible Parenthood," a state-wide program sponsored by the Mississippi Social Hygiene Association, grew from the grass roots of the state. Parents, educators, health officers, welfare workers, churchmen, youth and adult leaders, responded to a call from the people to face a pernicious social problem: increasing sex delinquencies, increasing divorce rates, and increasing venereal disease rates.

Leaders met at the request of Governor Thomas L. Bailey and organized a vehicle for a guidance program that would check this cancerous growth. The Mississippi Social Hygiene Association was formed as the vehicle: an agency of all social agencies of the state. Its method to meet the problem is expressed in a program of "Education for Responsible Parenthood."

"During the past two months, October and November," Samuel T. Robbins, Executive Secretary of the association, comments, "we trained four city school systems (McComb, Clarksdale, Laurel, and Greenville) to integrate our materials into the daily lives of our school children; we trained 265 parents who attended three day discussion groups; we trained 28 leaders at two leadership training institutes; and gave interpretations of the program to 5000 people at 40 P-TA meetings, McComb Rotary Club, Meridian Lion's Club, Junior Auxiliary Convention, Home Demonstration Council meetings, and other community gatherings. Our leadership training clinics are geared to train leaders of all social agencies. These leaders receive twenty hours of clinical discussions in the realm of human growth and development; the phases discussed by a state-wide personnel, are: physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual growth, questions children ask, how to lead discussion groups with adults and youth, how to integrate our program of human relations or 'education of the sexes' into the school program, and problems of growing up. Leaders return to their local communities and interpret the program, lead discussion groups, and act as resource people. In that way a program of sex education can be carried out on a state-wide basis. All leaders are volunteer workers, coming for training to help youth and adults with problems of mutual and individual interest."

"The most inspirational part of our program," continues Samuel T. Robbins, "is that official and non-official agencies have joined in a shared experience to help adults understand human development and to help our children grow up in a more wholesome and enriched environment. The personnel and facilities of health, education and welfare, P.-T.A., Y.W.C.A., and Y.M.C.A., are available for the Executive Secretary, who guides and administers the program. Since the inception of the program over 12,000 people heard an interpretation of the program, 750 teachers were trained at six weeks summer sessions at the University of Mississippi and at Mississippi Southern College, six city faculties of education have received training and units for integration, and 1000 parents attended three-day clinics for better understanding of the problems of growing up."

The address of the Mississippi So-

cial Hygiene Association is Box 1700, Jackson 113, Miss.

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"THE BOOK OF THE YEAR"

"How to pick your mate," by Clifford R. Adams and Vance O. Packard (published by Dutton) is put in first place by consultants of the American Institute of Family Relations, asked "which book, published during 1946, you consider most likely to be useful in promoting successful marriage in the United States?"

Thurman B. Rice's "Sex, marriage, and the family" (Lippincott) was voted second and Edgar Schmiedeler's "Marriage and the family" (McGraw-Hill) third. Fourth place went to "Unhappy marriage and divorce" by Edmund Bergler (International Universities Press).

Other books which received at least one vote for first place are Elizabeth Stevenson's "Home and family life education in elementary schools" (Wiley) and Howard Kitching's "Sex problems of the returned veteran" (Emerson). Most of the 21 consultants who expressed their opinion in this poll considered "The family" by Ernest W. Burgess and Harvey J. Locke (American Book Co.) to be the most substantial and valuable treatise on the subject that has appeared recently. This, however, is a 1945 publication and hence, along with several other outstanding books which appeared in 1945, did not properly enter into a consideration of the books of the year just passed.

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RESEARCH NOTES

Before marriage 80% of men and women have formed an ideal of the sort of person they want to marry, Anselm Strauss of Indiana University reports. The cultural and temperamental qualities of the "ideal" do influence significantly the choice of a marriage partner; the physical aspects of the "ideal" do not. This study of 373 engaged or recently married persons (200 of them women) of college age is published in the American Journal of Sociology, Nov. 1946.

Loss of one-fourth of the entire population of England every 30 years is insured by the birth rates that have prevailed for the last decade or two.

Nearly one-half of the Protestants in Canada, and 81% of the Roman Catholics, believe that civil marriage should be prohibited, a recent Gallup Poll discovered. Women are somewhat more favorable to religious ceremony than are men.

Hamilton County, Tennessee, of which Chattanooga is the seat, has come forward with a reluctant claim to the nation's highest divorce rate—around 500%! After a nine months' investigation, a special committee of the Chattanooga Bar Association says "the public has ample grounds to believe that a divorce mill is in operation." Beyond this the divorce rate is forced up by Tennessee couples who cross the line into Georgia to be married "without giving notice, without medical examinations, whether they are drunk or sober, just so they can pay the fees," as an editorial in the Chattanooga News-Free Press declares.

In England the National Council of Women has adopted a resolution urging that the Ministry of Education introduce into all schools and educational institutions an adequate educational policy for marriage and family life.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

TEEN DAYS, by Frances Bruce Strain. Pp. 182, price $2.75 from D. Appleton-Century Co., 35 W. 32d st., New York, N. Y., 1946.

In 1934 Mrs. Strain published "New patterns for sex teaching," which was at once accepted as the outstanding book on the subject. She brought this up to date recently with her book on "Sex guidance in family life education." In addition to these treatises for parents and teachers, she undertook the difficult task of providing suitable reading material for the children themselves, in this important field. Her "Being born" has long been the "best seller" for children from 8 to 12 or thereabouts, and in "Love at the threshold" she offered guidance to youth of the high school and college years. There has, however, been very little available to help the boys and girls of junior high school level. She has now filled the gap between her other two books by this new one on "Teen days,"—in general, the years from 13 to 16. This period of early adolescence has been much misunderstood, and students as well as the youngsters will welcome Mrs. Strain's discussion of the physical and emotional changes which are taking place. The development of masculinity and femininity is traced in detail, and the practical problems of life—work and play and love—are treated with that combination of scientific accuracy, sympathetic understanding, and a light literary touch, which one finds in all of Mrs. Strain's writings. The new volume will undoubtedly join its predecessors in immediate acceptance and popularity.

SEX, LIFE, AND FAITH, by Rom Landau. Pp. 320, price 21s. from Faber and Faber, 24 Russell Square, London WC 1, England, 1946.

Anyone undertaking to write "A modern philosophy of sex," as this book is subtitled, might well be expected to have a thorough understanding of the factors of organic evolution, and a good working knowledge of biology, psychology, sociology, and economics. Unfortunately Mr. Landau lacks all of this. He is a journalist and lecturer (and also, he indicates, a counsellor on sex problems) who ends vaguely with the proposition that the right use of sex depends on "a co-ordination of our own will with the will of God." His book contains a good many historical data and observations based on art and literature, which are of interest, and it is livened by some beautiful illustrations.

CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE, ed. by E. V. Pullias. Pp. 108, price $1.50 from The Bookman, 1121 W. 79th st., Los Angeles 44, Calif., 1946.

Growing out of collaboration between George Pepperdine College and the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles, this series of eight addresses by as many different men covers much more ground than the title suggests. Particularly welcome are the chapters on citizenship, music, literature, and recreation in the Christian home, as well as those dealing with courtship, marriage, and parenthood. The attractively printed volume should find wide use in both church and lay circles.

MAKE YOUR OWN MERRY CHRISTMAS, by Anne Wertsner. Pp. 112, price $2 from M. Barrows & Co., 114 E. 32d st., New York 16, N. Y., 1946.

Practical suggestions for home decorations and meals, with a view to making the family holiday more enjoyable.

TEXTBOOK OF ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY, by Carney Landis and M. Marjorie Bolles. Pp. 576, price $4.50 from The Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth ave., New York 11, N. Y., 1946.

This broad and well-balanced treatise ascribes more weight to the influence of heredity, than do many other recent textbooks. The authors list as "conditions which are predominantly or completely due to genetic factors: Huntington's chorea, idiopathic epilepsy, dementia praecox, manic-depressive psychosis, mental deficiency (idiopathic, but not all special forms.)" Heredity plays at least a part in most other abnormal mental conditions, they say. They are never dogmatic, but they have no doubt that "mental disease runs in families." Apart from its primary use as a college textbook, any educated person will find this a valuable work of reference in a field of great importance.

MARRIAGE: This business of living together, by Nathaniel Fishman. Pp. 368, price $3 from Liveright Pub. Corp., 386 Fourth ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1946.

The content of this book is accurately described on the dust-jacket as "the anomalies, curiosities, and facts about marriage, divorce, and separation in our 48 states." The author is an attorney who has a previous book, "The married woman's bill of rights" to his credit. The present volume is a pot-pourri, without citations or references of any kind, but a dip into it will always yield entertainment or information.

AGING SUCCESSFULLY, by George Lawton. Pp. 266, price $2.75 from Columbia University Press, Morningside Heights, New York, N.Y. 1946.

Someone has figured that every married couple must now support three parents,—their own or, through taxes, those of someone else. But the economic problems are perhaps not as great as the psychological problems involved. With the steadily increasing proportion of "senior citizens" in the population, more attention to them is an urgent need. Dr. Lawton is a psychologist whose practice, in New York City, is now devoted primarily to the elderly. He has written this book, likewise, primarily for them. "Retire to, not from," is his general advice, and he amplifies it with details from every side. "A new attitude toward older people in this country is not likely to be based on veneration or worship or great respect," he declares. That would be not even desirable. Each generation needs its own activities, and those of the older generation should be mainly with their own contemporaries. Dr. Lawton's practical and readable book should have wide circulation. It makes a substantial contribution towards the solution of some of the greatest problems which family life now faces.

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The Institute has issued a new reading list of "Some useful books for those interested in counselling." This publication (No. 515) can be had for 5 cents.

INEXPENSIVE PAMPHLETS

YOUR CHILD FROM ONE TO SIX, Children's Bureau Pub. No. 30, pp. 148, U. S. Dept. of Labor. This old stand-by, which has been popular in one form or another for nearly 30 years, has again been revised. No parent should pass it by. For a copy send 15c to U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES, by Edgar Schmiedeler. Pp. 19, from Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, 1312 Massachusetts ave. N.W., Washington 5, D. C. A brief discussion of the need for family allowances, the various forms in which help may be given (Dr. Schmiedeler thinks cash is better than a multiplication of "public services"), and a refutation of objections. The pamphlet concludes that the need for a family allowance system in the United States is beyond question.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF STERILIZATION LEGISLATION IN THE U. S., 16-page review with up-to-date statistics; the first comprehensive report on this important subject that has appeared in 10 years. Free for stamped, self-addressed envelope to Birthright, Inc., P.O. Box 441, Princeton, N. J.

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AROUND THE WORLD

Anglicans, both in Canada and in Great Britain, are campaigning vigorously against Roman Catholic attempts to control mixed marriages. In a recent address Dr. Cyril Garbett, Archbishop of York, after urging that members of the Church of England should not "be intimidated by any warnings or threats" into signing a "humiliating" agreement, added, "I have known many cases where the Anglican has stood firm and refused to give this pledge, and either the Roman Catholic authorities have not insisted upon it, or more frequently the marriage has been taken in one of our own churches."—The United Church of Canada has also taken a strong stand on this question. A 58-page printed report on "Christian marriage and the Christian home," submitted by a Commission headed by Chief Justice J. C. McRuer, advises that "our ministers counsel young people who contemplate contracting a mixed marriage to refuse to sign any document that would alienate their right to be spiritual guides to their own children or that would reflect on the validity of their own church membership."

India shows no signs of a decline in its fertility, says Kingsley Davis, after reviewing the factors that influence its vital statistics. He fears that the increasing population pressure must result in catastrophe. (American Journal of Sociology, Nov., 1946.)

In Berlin, just as in many American cities, there are now more divorces than marriages. German newspapers ascribe various reasons: lack of men of suitable ages, shortage of places and opportunities for young people to meet,—both of these tending to depress the marriage rate; and on the other hand a divorce rate stimulated by the fact that many women "married a uniform" and are now unable to get used to their husbands as laborers; the new independence which women acquired during the war; and the fact that Hitler took the German's soul, "leaving only the egoism of the marriage partners."

British military authorities are about to lift the ban on marriage between

their soldiers and German girls. They will probably require an engagement period of six months, and insist that the man take a furlough at home before marriage, in order to think the question over in English surroundings.

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay are among the 39 countries in which at least the first steps have been taken toward a system of family allowances or family wage.

Theme of the annual provincial exposition in Quebec last fall was "The Family." Public interest resulted in the formation of a permanent committee to raise funds from which annual grants of $300 each will be made to families with 10 children or more, as a contribution toward the education of the children.

Whether salaries of women should be raised to equal those of men has been considered by a Royal Commission on Equal Pay, headed by Mr. Justice Asquith, which has recently reported to the British government. "In discussing the social and economic results of equal pay," says Melita Spraggs in the Christian Science Monitor, "the report says that the average male earner is a husband and a father. The average woman in employment is not a wife and mother. Even wives and mothers who are in employment are normally not the sole support of their families. The report therefore concludes that the welfare of many more persons depends on the level of a man's pay than on a woman's rate. In any estimate of the consequences of equal pay they feel this numerical fact must be given due weight. The claim for equal pay, they say, relies for its appeal largely on plain justice. It is relevant to inquire where the balance of plain justice lies. On the whole, the Commission states it doesn't feel the number of marriages would be likely to be affected by grant of equal pay, but the size of families might be decreased if there were 'an absolute and not merely a relative' worsening of the economic position of men." Sir Maurice Holmes, on behalf of the Minister of Education, warned that "equal pay" would discourage more men from becoming teachers because it "would create a higher standard of living for women or enhance an existing one." Women's salaries in teaching and other professions were found to be from 80% to 90% of those of men.

Sweden's birth rate has fallen by about one-half since the beginning of the present century. There has been no marked change in the proportion of illegitimate births, which has always been high.

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HUSBANDS FOR ALL

Young women need not worry about a shortage of husbands, growing out of the declining proportion of males in the population, say Hope T. Eldridge and Jacob S. Siegel. The shortage of men is mainly in the upper age brackets. "There were in 1940 about 3.7 million more single males than single females among the population of 15 years old and over. The excess of single males was largely in the most 'marrying' group, 15 to 34 years. The excess of single males was offset by an excess of approximately the same size among widowed and divorced females. This group was largely concentrated in the older ages." (American Journal of Sociology, Nov. 1946.)

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY RELATIONS

The American Institute of Family Relations is the first organized attempt in the United States to bring all the resources of modern science to bear on the promotion of successful marriage. It was incorporated in 1930 as a non-profit undertaking, and all its services are available to the public at a minimum cost.

Through lectures, conferences, and discussion groups, the Institute carries on an active and continuous educational program. A circulating library provides the public with recent and important books. A correspondence course in the principles, techniques, and materials of counselling, makes the experience of the Institute available to those at a distance, who are called upon to lead, advise, or instruct others in dealing with their personal and family problems.

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